

Filed for intro on 01/30/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0031
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Tom White on his devoted
service to the medical profession.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to honor the dedication and devotion of those citizens who have emerged as leaders in service to the public and who have enhanced the quality of life for the many citizens whose lives have been touched by their good works; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom White of Memphis is one such exemplary person, who has committed much of his life to medicine, using his unparalleled skills and concern for others to enhance the caregiving capacity of the healing arts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. White began his illustrious life in Jackson, Tennessee, but soon moved to Memphis with his family in pursuit of the cotton business; and

WHEREAS, in Memphis, Dr. White attended Central High School and Southwestern College at Memphis, now known as Rhodes College; graduating with a degree in mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the young Dr. White then rejoined his family in their thriving cotton enterprise, T.J.White and Company; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Dr. White was called to the military and served valiantly as a pilot with the United States Air Force Transport Command; and

WHEREAS, desiring to further his education after the military, Dr. White returned to Memphis to attend night law school while he continued to work for the family business; and

WHEREAS, after an attempt to launch his own cotton firm in 1952, Dr. White decided to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a medical doctor; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 35, Dr. White entered the University of Tennessee, Memphis Medical School; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Dr. White embarked upon a brilliant career; he has had an indelible impact on the Memphis community, providing medical care to countless families throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, Dr. White's exciting career has encompassed practicing two summers in Haiti, directing the emergency department at the University of Tennessee, Memphis Regional Medical Center, and serving the Memphis Veterans Medical Center High Blood Pressure Clinic as director; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Dr. White approached a significant milestone in his life; retiring from his beloved profession and leaving a lofty standard of medical excellence behind; and

WHEREAS, as a state tennis champion and an accomplished jazz musician, Dr. White thought his time would be well occupied and the desire to be back in the office would subside; this was not the case, however, so Dr. White began searching for volunteer work to fill the void left by retirement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. White began donating a few hours per month to the Church Street Health Center, a clinic providing primary health care to over 12,000 of the working poor, children, elderly, and homeless; and

WHEREAS, although an atypical volunteer at the venerable age of 76, Dr. White and the center felt a mutual attraction; his few hours a month turned into a few hours a week, and then a few hours a day; and soon Dr. White could be found at the clinic eight hours a day, five days a week; and

WHEREAS, the only volunteer with his own patients, Dr. White describes his work as “exhilarating,” stating that few others his age “get a good challenge every day;” and

WHEREAS, Dr. White is not the only person benefiting from his presence at the center; the executive director describes him as “truly the perfect volunteer;” and patients laud him for being “so considerate,” “having more patience” and “spending more time than he has;” and

WHEREAS, this Body should recognize Dr. Tom White, an exceptional public servant and dedicated professional who has unselfishly committed himself to the betterment of others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we commend Dr. Tom White for his unflagging commitment and outstanding work as a medical professional and community servant, and for his being one of the truly outstanding volunteers and setting an example for others in the volunteer state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to him our most sincere appreciation and support for his continued work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.